

ORIGINAL

1

BEFORE THE CURPURATION COMMISSION CETYED

2

3

4

5

COMMISSIONERS

MIKE GLEASON

MARC SPITZER - CHAIRMAN JIM IRVIN WILLIAM A. MUNDELL JEFF HATCH-MILLER

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

JUN 2 7 2003

2003 JUN 27 A II: 23

AZ COPP COMMISSES DESCRIBERS ROMANS

DOCKETED BY CKL

6

7

9

11

12

13 14

15

16

17 18

19

20

21

22

23

24

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY. INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A **DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR** VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR UTILITY SERVICE BY ITS SUN CITY WEST WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICTS.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY. INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR UTILITY SERVICE BY ITS SUN CITY WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICTS.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY. INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A **DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR** VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR UTILITY SERVICE BY ITS MOHAVE WATER DISTRICT AND ITS HAVASU WATER DISTRICT.

Docket No. WS-01303A-02-0867

Docket No. WS-01303A-02-0868

Docket No. WS-01303A-02-0869

RUCO'S BRIEF ON THE APPLICABILITY OF THE TIMECLOCK RULES AS SET FORTH IN A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR UTILITY SERVICE BY ITS AGUA FRIA WATER DISTRICT AND ITS ANTHEM / AGUA FRIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR UTILITY SERVICE BY ITS TUBAC WATER DISTRICT.

Docket No. WS-01303A-02-0870

Docket No. WS-01303A-02-0908

RUCO'S BRIEF ON THE APPLICABILITY OF THE TIMECLOCK RULES AS SET FORTH IN A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)

The Residential Utility Consumer's Office ("RUCO") hereby submits its Brief on the applicability of the timeclock rules set forth on A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11). RUCO does not take issue with the arguments raised in Arizona-American Water Company's ("Company") brief of June 18, 2003.

RUCO would add the following point. Further evidence that A.A.C. R14-2-103 (B)(11)(f) and (g) contain inadvertent errors by referring back to A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(a) can be found in footnote number 4 on page 20 of Attachment B to Decision No. 57875¹. In discussing the timeclock rules, it was noted in the concise explanatory statement that subparagraph (d)² was included in the initial proposed amendments as subparagraph (a) and was renumbered to subparagraph (d) when the Commission adopted the changes to the Rules. The logical explanation is that the reference back to subsection (a) did not take into account the renumbering.

¹ Decision No. 57875, referenced in the Company's Brief, approved the proposed amendments to A.A.C. R14-2-103. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the relevant excerpt of Decision No. 57875.

² A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(d) – this subsection actually establishes the timeframes for the issuance of a final order.

1 1		
1	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 27 th day of June, 2003.	
2		
3		Duan
4	·	Daniel W. Pozefskly Staff Attorney
5	AN ODIONIAL AND THENTY ONE CODI	F.C.
6	AN ORIGINAL AND TWENTY-ONE COPI of the foregoing filed this 27 th day of June, 2003 with:	ES
7	Docket Control	
8	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington	
9	Phoenix, Arizona 85007	
10	COPIES of the foregoing hand-delivered/mailed this 27 th day of June, 2003 to:	
11	Dwight D. Nodes	Carlton G. Young
12	Administrative Law Judge Arizona Corporation Commission	3203 West Steinbeck Drive Anthem, Arizona 85068
13	1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007	Antioni, Anzona occoo
14	Tim Sabo, Staff Attorney	Frank J. Grimmelmann
15	Legal Division Arizona Corporation Commission	42441 North Cross Timbers Court Anthem, Arizona 85068
16	1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007	,,
17		Raymond E. Dare
18	Norman D. James Jay L. Shapiro Fennemore Craig	Sun City Taxpayers Association 12611 North 103 rd Avenue, Suite D
19	3003 North Central Avenue, Suite 2600 Phoenix, Arizona 85012	Sun City, Arizona 85351
20	William P. Sullivan	
21	Paul R. Michaud Martinez & Curtis	By Mayer Kumph Jennifer Rumph
22	2712 North 7 th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85006	(
23	FIIUGIIX, AIIZUIIA 00000 	

EXHIBIT 1



BEFORE THE AMBIZONA: CORPORATION COMMISSION DOCKETED

RENZ D. JENNINGS CHAIRMAN MARCIA WEEKS

1117 1 8 1992

COMMISSIONER
DALE H. MORGAN
COMMISSIONER

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

DOCKETED BY TLP

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A.A.C. R14-2-103 CONCERNING RATE APPLICATION MANAGEMENT.

DOCKET NO. R-0000-91-347

DECISION NO. 57875

OPINION AND ORDER

DATES OF HEARING:

January 23 and 30, 1992

PLACES OF HEARING:

Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Beth Ann Burns

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Renz D. Jennings Commissioner Marcia Weeks Commissioner Dale H. Morgan

APPEARANCES:

Mr. Stephen J. Berg, Attorney, Legal Division, on behalf of the Staff of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Decision No. 57603, dated November 6, 1991, the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") promulgated proposed amendments to A.A.C. R14-2-103 which would, inter alia, change the gross annual operating revenue amounts for the various utility classifications and establish time limits for the Commission's processing of rate applications.

By Procedural Order dated November 14, 1991, a hearing in this matter was scheduled for January 23, 1992 in Phoenix, Arizona and January 30, 1992 in Tucson, Arizona for the purpose of taking public comments on the proposed amendments. The Procedural Order also set February 14, 1992 as the deadline for filing written public comments on the proposed amendments.

28



CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The proposed amendments to A.A.C. R14-2-103 were adopted by the Commission in Decision No. 57603 (November 6, 1991). This explanatory statement is provided to comply with the provisions of A.R.S. §41-1027.

I. REASONS FOR ADOPTING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A.A.C. R14-2-103 sets forth the filing requirements which a public service corporation must meet in submitting an application to the Commission for a change in its authorized rates and charges. The rule, however, does not provide any timelines for processing such an application.

A.A.C. R14-2-103 is being amended to establish reasonable rate application management measures to improve the efficiency of, and provide greater predictability in, the rate review process. The amendments will: increase to a more realistic level the amounts used to identify utility classifications according to gross annual operating income; impose internal timelines for the Commission's processing of rate applications; and establish, for each utility classification, a deadline for issuing a final Commission Order in rate cases of 12 months for Class A and B companies, 9 months for Class C companies, and 6 months for Class D and E companies. In the event the Commission fails to meet the deadline, the amendments allow the utility to pursue interim rate relief, subject to bond and later refund, pending issuance of the final Order.



Resolution: A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(c) should be amended to provide that:

"c. For all Class A utilities, the Hearing Officer shall issue a recommended order in the rate case at least 20 days prior to the last regularly scheduled open meeting in the time period calculated pursuant to Subparagraph d. of this Paragraph. For all other utilities, the Hearing Officer shall issue a recommended order at least 10 days prior to the last regularly scheduled open meeting in the time period calculated pursuant to Subparagraph d. of this Paragraph."

K. A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(d) The Time Clock

Issue: A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(d) is the key provision in the proposed amendments.⁴ It establishes the time clock. Under this provision, the Commission will be required to issue final orders in rate cases within a prescribed time period from the date that a utility's filing is determined to be sufficient. The proposed time period for Class A and B utilities is 12 months, for Class C utilities nine months, and for Class D and E utilities six months.

The comments submitted in this docket express universal support for the implementation of a timetable to speed case processing and rate relief. Nearly universal displeasure exists, however, with the length of the time periods proposed. APS views the timetable as "not overly ambitious" compared to other jurisdictions which have legal time constraints on their rate deliberations. U S West

In the initially proposed amendments, this provision was included as A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(a). The changes to the rule adopted by the Commission herein have caused the subparagraph to be renumbered as A.A.C. R14-2-103(B)(11)(d).